

Update On Historical Survey Grant

**By MARTHA HIMES,
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The Duxbury Historical Commission was recently awarded a \$12,000 grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) to begin Phase I of a comprehensive survey of Duxbury historical residences.

The town of Duxbury will match this grant with \$8,000 to bring the total survey funds to \$20,000. The Historical Commission has chosen Karen Davis, a preservation consultant based in Cambridge, to perform the survey.

Davis has a master's degree from the Preservation Studies Program at Boston University and three years experience as a preservation consultant. Her previous projects include surveys of Maynard, Watertown,

Methuen and Orleans, several nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, many tax act applications and two town preservation plans.

The survey will focus on four neighborhoods: Tinkertown, Millbrook, Tarkiln and Tree of Knowledge and Standish Shores. Additionally, work will be done in and along the property of the Old Shipbuilder's National Register Historic District. Within those areas, Davis will identify buildings, objects, burial grounds, and landscapes that are architecturally or historically significant to Duxbury's development. MHC Inventory forms will be completed for significant properties. These forms will include a black and white photograph, a sketch map depicting the property's location,

an architectural description and a brief historical narrative including appropriate date of construction and, when possible, original owner's name.

Work should begin in late September, and be divided into three sections. The first will include maps of the surveyed neighborhoods, an explanation of Davis' criteria for property selection, and a list of properties to be inventoried. The second section will include a draft history, draft inventory forms, and a draft list of all areas and properties recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The third section will include final MHC inventory forms for significant properties, a map of all inventoried properties and a Survey Final Report, including a narrative history, a street index of inventoried properties and a final list of recommendations of areas and properties to be nominated to the National Register.

If you live in one of the neighborhoods to be surveyed, please do not be surprised if you see Miss Davis standing in front of your house taking notes and photographs in the next several months. A vital part of the survey work includes photographing and writing architectural descriptions of homes. And if you have done research on your home and would like to share it, she would love to hear what you have unearthed.